



*Clifford B. Janey, Ed.D, Superintendent*

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**DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS SET TO OPEN MODERNIZED STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY FOR  
THOMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JANUARY 17**

**Washington, DC** – District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officials announced today the opening of the modernized Thomson Elementary School, 1200 L Street, NW. Students will resume classes at the new building Tuesday, January 17.

"The completion of this new school further demonstrates our commitment to high quality teaching and learning by building state-of-the-art learning environments for the District's children," said Superintendent Clifford B. Janey.

Thomson, which was originally built in 1869, was replaced in 1910 with a two-story facility. In early 1999, DCPS identified and approved Thomson for modernization. The site-specific educational specification and feasibility study was completed in 2000. The new school is a renovation of the 1910 structure, along with a new wing. The new space, 100,000 square feet, combines pre-kindergartners through sixth-graders to learn together in this \$18 million state-of-the-art facility that can house up to 335 students.

Features of the modernized school include 19 fully renovated classrooms, a computer lab, reading/learning center, media center and media production lab, art room, parent resource center, music room and keyboard lab, underground staff parking garage, seven outdoor play areas, including a roof-top play area and a full-size gymnasium.

"This school is the result of hard work on the part of parents, the community, DCPS and USACE," said Cornell S. Brown Jr., Executive Director, Office of Facilities Management. "All parties involved should take pride in this state-of-the-art facility where our educators will help DCPS achieve success one student at a time."

Since 1998, USACE has partnered with DCPS to assist the school system with its capital improvement program. During that time, in addition to 12 whole-school modernization projects, USACE has executed more than 1,000 smaller capital improvement projects, which include structural repairs, installation of new roofs and windows, replacement of old and failing heating and cooling systems, bathroom renovations, flooring upgrades and interior renovation projects, more than 700 asbestos abatement actions of various sizes, underground storage tank removals, as well several other environmental projects.

The new school was designed by Lance Bailey & Associates, a minority-owned architectural firm, and built by Hess Construction.

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*DCPS: Success, One Student at a Time*